What is claimed is:

1. Isolated RTD polypeptide having at least about 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence RTD polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 386 of Fig. 1A (SEQ ID NO:1).

2. The RTD polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said RTD polypeptide has at least about 90% amino acid sequence identity.

3. The RTD polypeptide of claim 2 wherein said RTD polypeptide has at least about 95% amino acid sequence identity.

4. Isolated native sequence RTD polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 386 of Fig. 1A (SEQ ID NO:1).

5. Isolated extracellular domain sequence of RTD polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 56 to 212 of Fig. 1A (SEQ ID NO:1).

6. The extracellular domain sequence of claim 5 comprising amino acid residues 1 to 212 of Fig. 1A (SEQ ID NO:1).

7. A chimeric molecule comprising the RTD polypeptide of claim 1 or the extracellular domain sequence of claim 5 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

8. The chimeric molecule of claim 7 wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an epitope tag sequence.

9. The chimeric molecule of claim 7 wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an immunoglobulin sequence.

10. The chimeric molecule of claim 9 wherein said immunoglobulin sequence is an IgG.

11. An antibody which specifically binds to the RTD polypeptide of claim 1 or the extracellular domain sequence of claim 5.

12. The antibody of claim 11 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

13. The antibody of claim 11 which is an agonist antibody.

14. Isolated nucleic acid encoding the RTD polypeptide of claim 1 or the extracellular domain sequence of claim 5.

15. The nucleic acid of claim 14 wherein said nucleic acid encodes native sequence RTD polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 386 of Fig. 1A (SEQ ID NO:1).

16. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 14.

17. The vector of claim 16 operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

18. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 16.

19. A process of using a nucleic acid molecule encoding RTD polypeptide to effect production of RTD polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 18.

20. A non-human, transgenic animal which contains cells that express nucleic acid encoding RTD polypeptide.

21. The animal of claim 20 which is a mouse or rat.

22. A non-human, knockout animal which contains cells having an altered gene encoding RTD polypeptide.

23. The animal of claim 22 which is a mouse or rat.

24. An article of manufacture, comprising a container and a composition contained within said container, wherein the

composition includes RTD polypeptide or RTD antibodies.

25. The article of manufacture of claim 24 further comprising instructions for using the RTD polypeptide or RTD antibodies *in vivo* or *ex vivo*.

26. A method of modulating apoptosis in mammalian cells comprising exposing said cells to RTD polypeptide.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said cells are exposed to Apo-2 ligand.

add A4

add B4